

# Introduction to High Performance Insulation



AIA Course Number: 0DC008  
AIA Learning Units: 1LU/HSW

GBCI CE Hours: 1  
GBCI Course Number: 0090010891

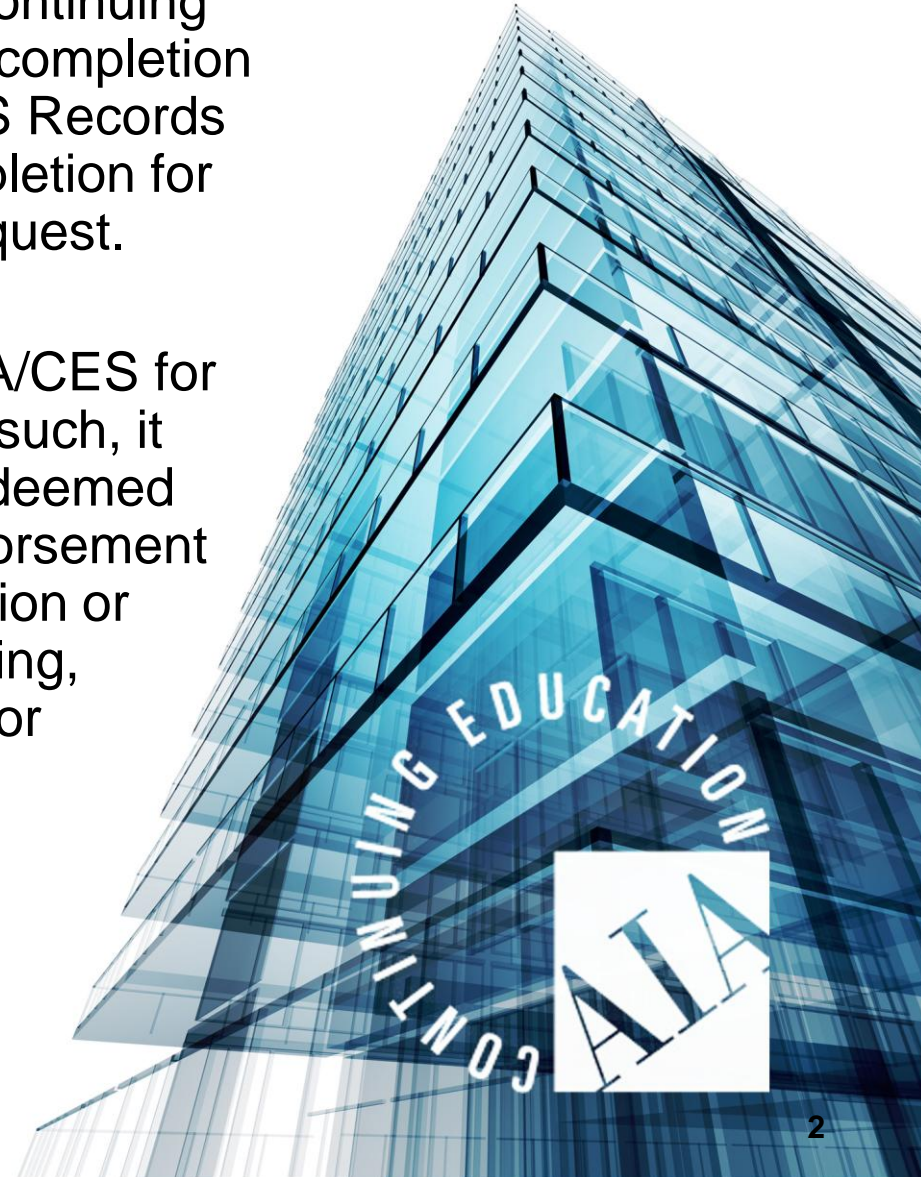
By: Dow Corning  
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# Learning Objectives

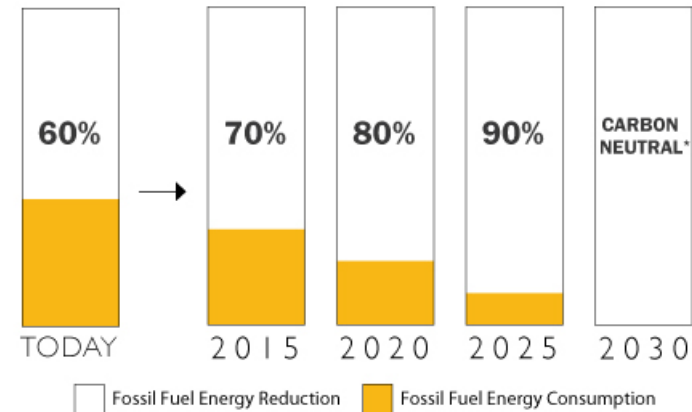
Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Discover key properties of aerogel blanket insulation and vacuum insulation panels (VIP)
- Explain the results of recent thermal modeling and hot box testing of VIP in spandrel applications
- Describe the thermal and design benefits of vacuum insulation panels incorporated into an architectural insulation model for ease of constructability in curtainwall construction
- Recognize the benefits of recent thermal models to reduce thermal bridging using aerogel blanket to improve whole wall effective R values

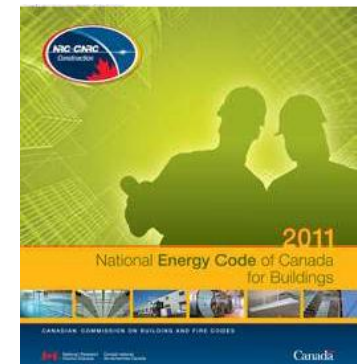
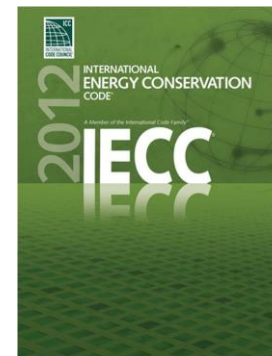
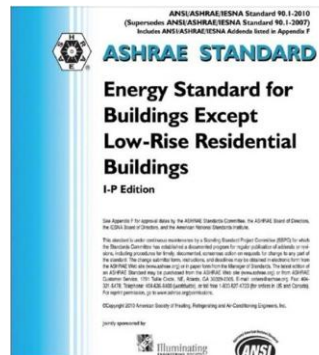


# Energy Efficiency Codes & Regulations

- IECC 2012
- ASHRAE 90.1
- ASHRAE 189.1
- SB10
- LEED v4.0
- Living Building Challenge
- Net Zero Buildings
- 2030 Challenge

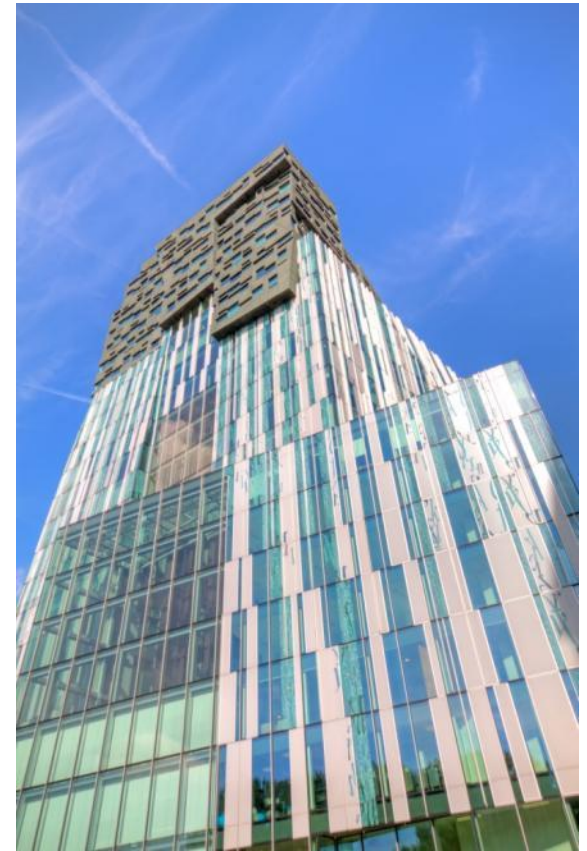
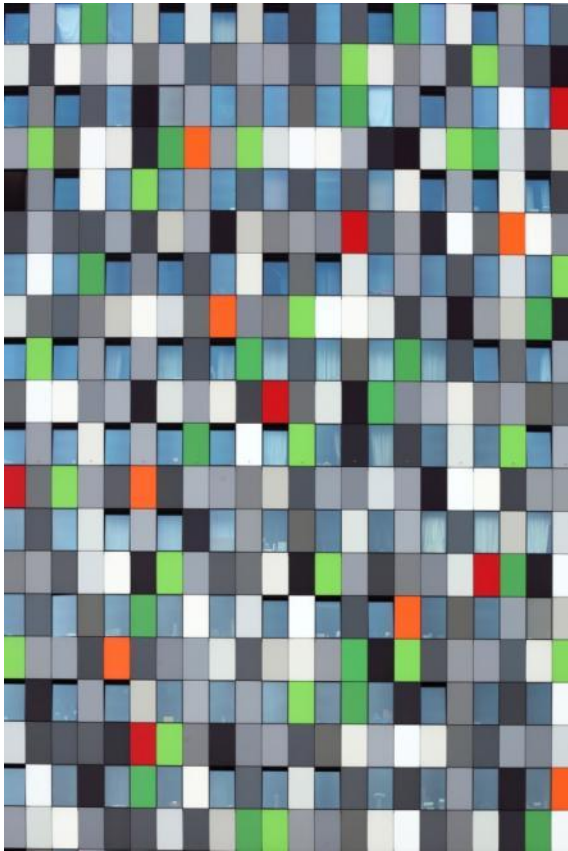


The 2030 Challenge



# Designers Must Balance Energy Efficiency and Design Goals

## Often a Trade-off Between Vision and Non Vision Area



# High Performance Insulation for Thinner Designs

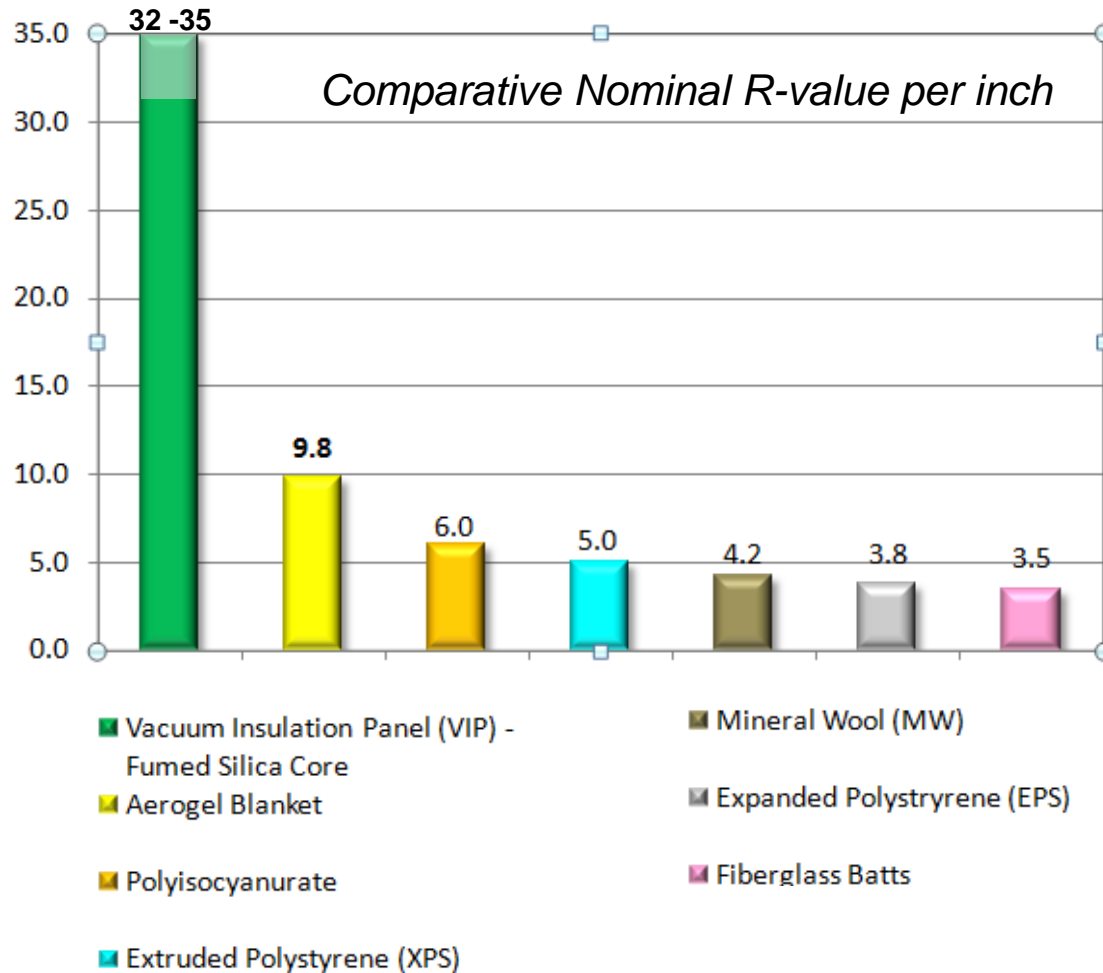


Mineral Wool is 8 to 10x thicker to deliver an equivalent R-value to VIP



Aerogel Insulation Blanket  
Flexible and Thin

# High Performance Insulation Delivers a Step Change in Thermal Performance





# New Technology such as Vacuum Insulation Panels (VIP) enable Greater Design Freedom



AV19344

# Vacuum Insulation Panel Properties

- Advantages
  - Very low thermal conductivity (approx 4mW/mK COP)
  - Inherently moisture resistant
  - Excellent fire resistance of inorganic core
  - Good compressive strength
  - Thin profile vs. conventional insulations of equal R value.
- Design Limitations
  - Careful handling required
  - Cannot be cut to size. Customization of panels is required
  - If punctured thermal properties are reduced

# Comparison of VIP Core Materials

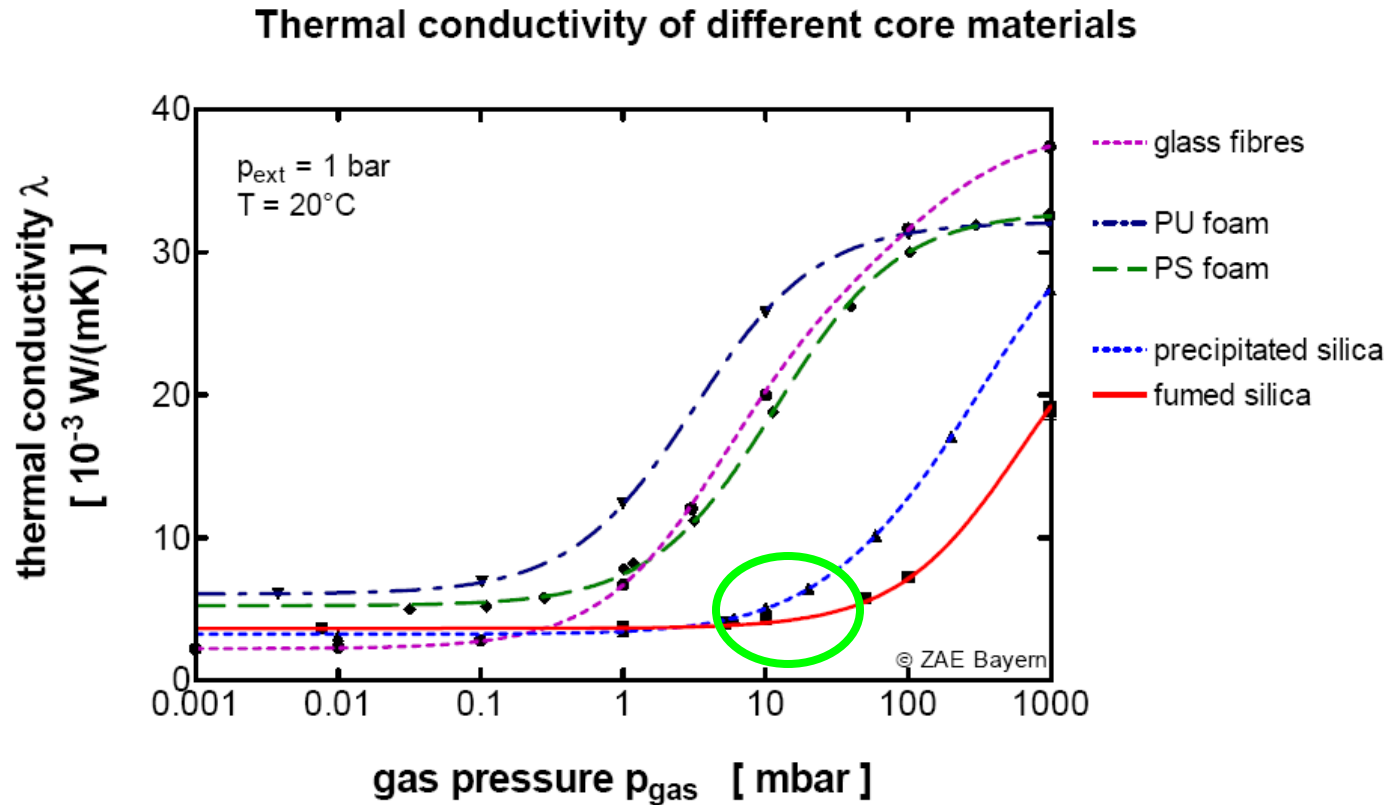
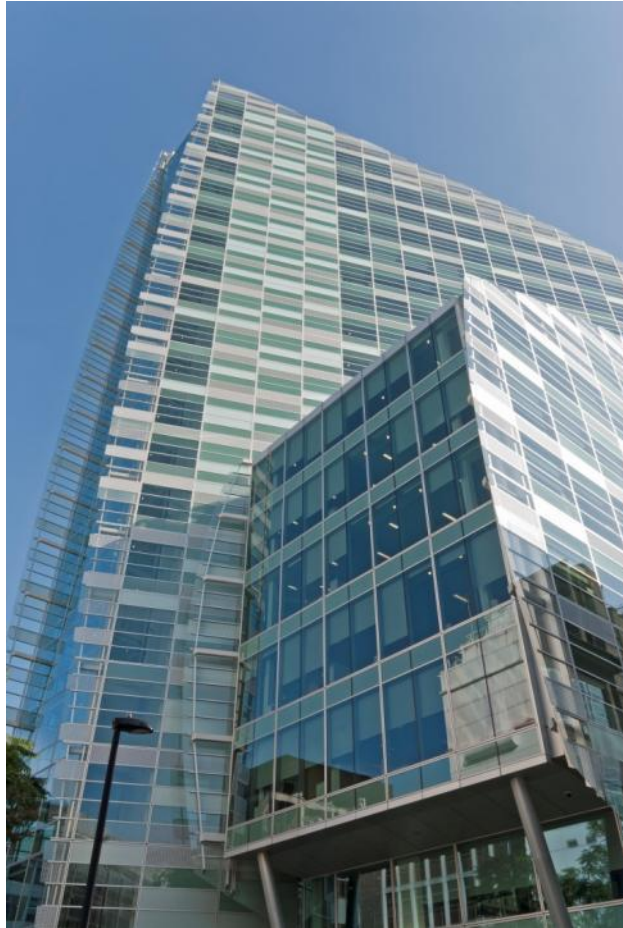


Figure 4: The heat conductivity of fumed silica starts to rise only above a gas pressure of more than 50 mbar.

# VIP Enabled Spandrels Provide Superior Performance for Curtain Walls



AV17400

- Highest aesthetical and functional requirements
- Slim façade with high vision share requires lowest U-values for spandrels
- Spandrels with embedded VIP addresses need for easy installation and multiple design options

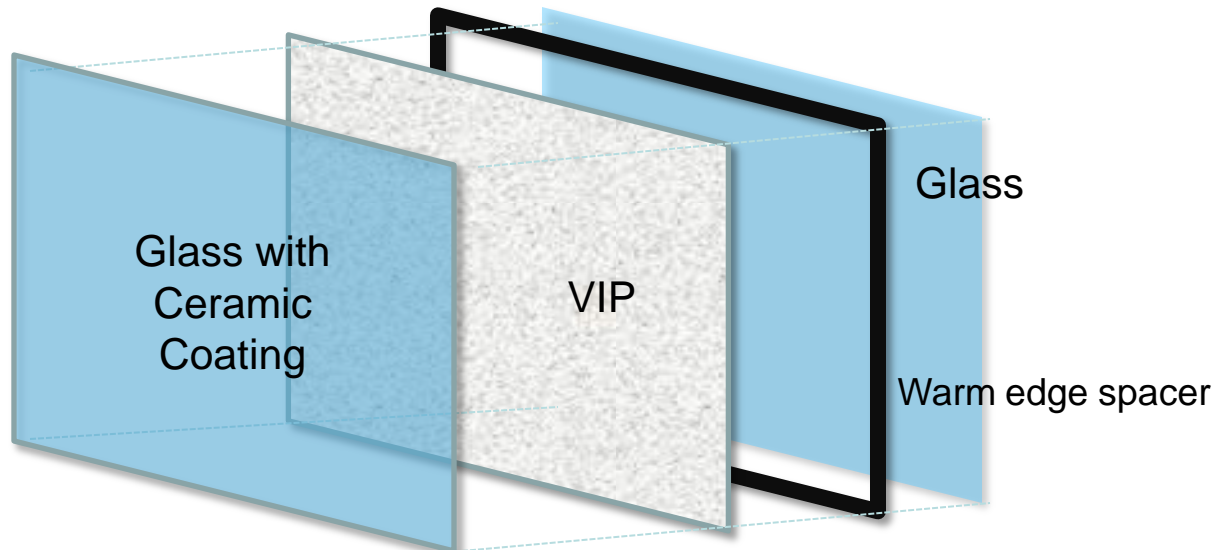
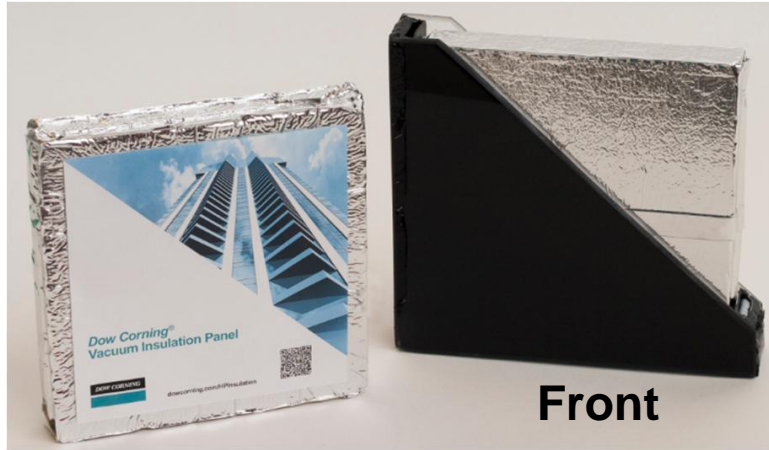
VIP integrated façade modules will enable high vision share while complying to thermal performance requirements



# Product Concept: From VIP to AIM

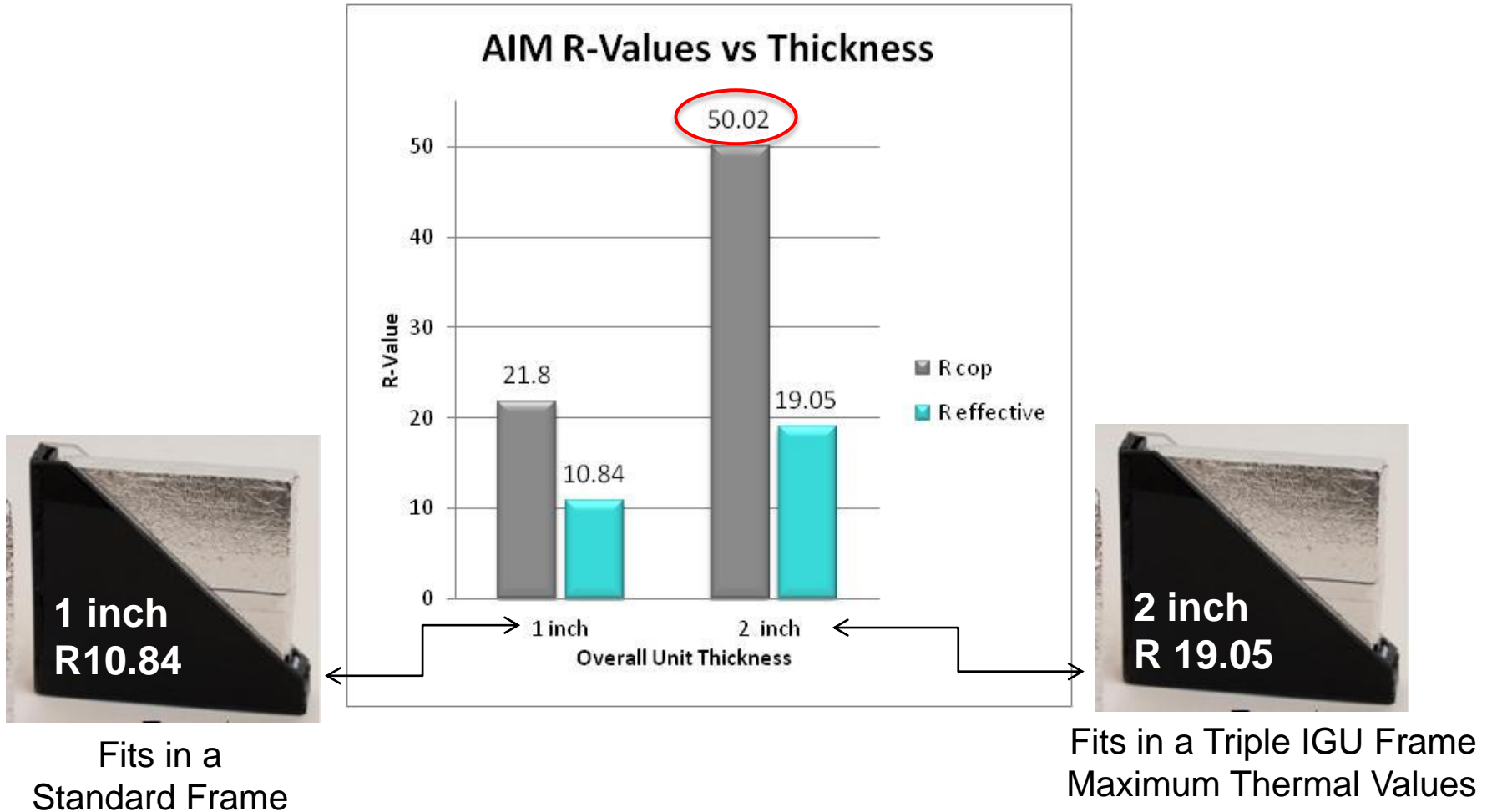
## Architectural Insulation Module (AIM)

VIPs are installed in between two pieces of glass; aka Double Insulating Glass Unit



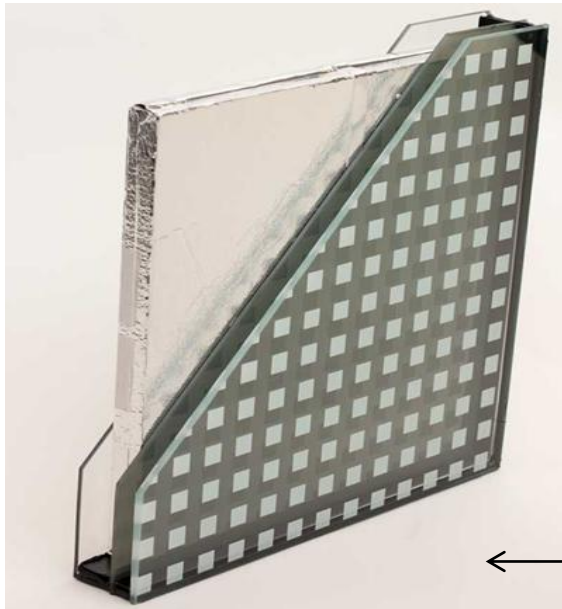
Curtainwall Application – Customized IG with Integrated VIP and Architectural Finish

# VIP for Spandrel Panels Delivers a Step Change Improvement in Thermal Performance

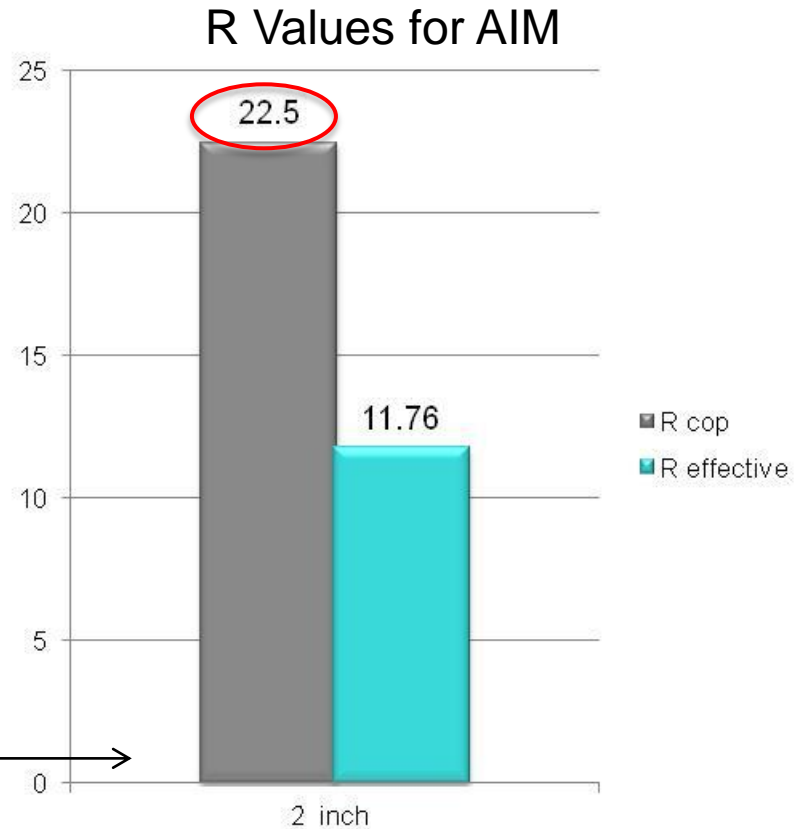


1 inch and 1 3/8 inch values modeled - LBNL THERM © 7, 2 inch unit test per ASTM C1363 hot box test.  
AIM = VIP configured between glass with warm edge spacer

# Visual Depth & Thermal Performance

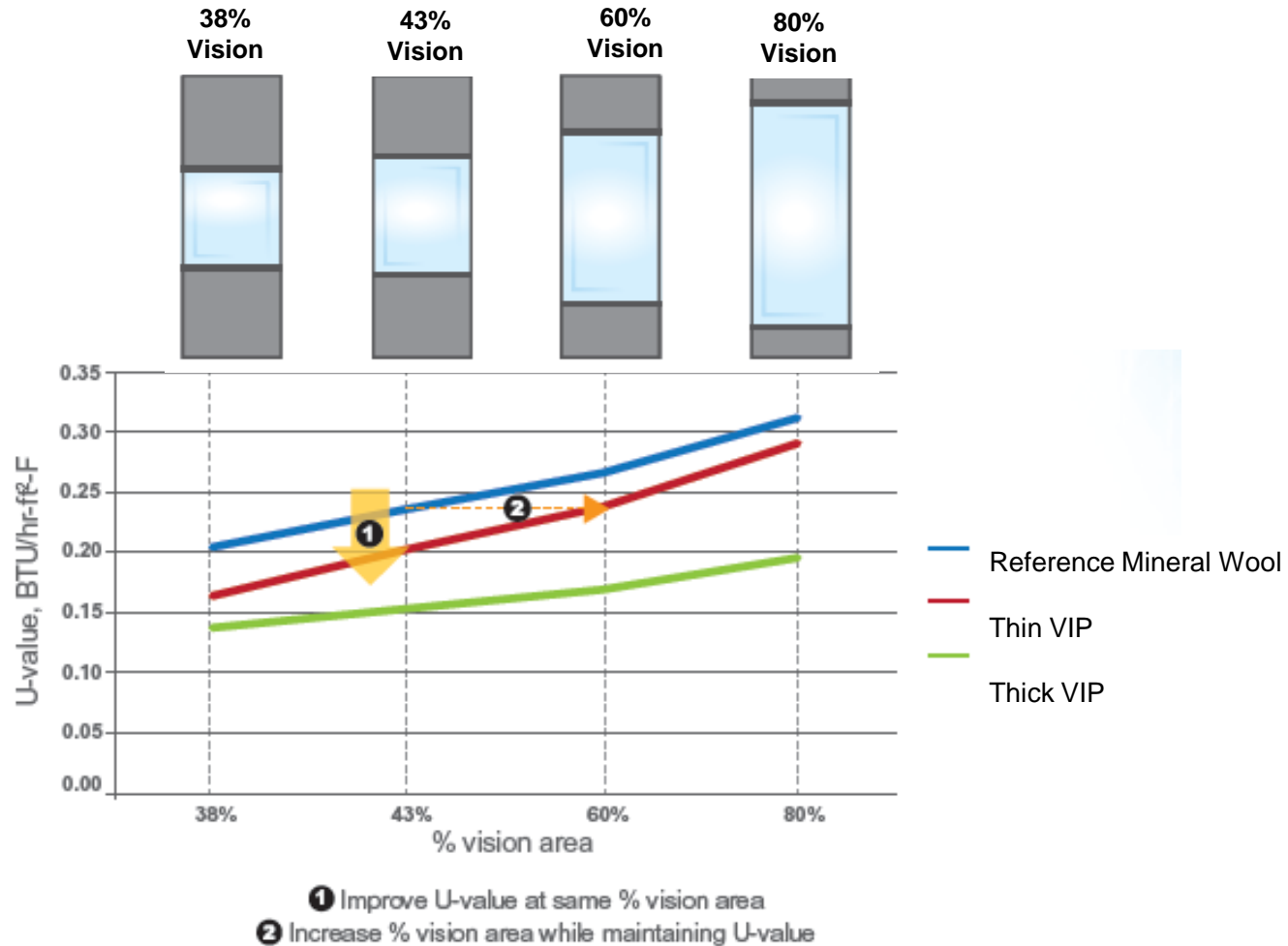


More Visual Depth  
Provided with 3 Layers



2 inch unit test per ASTM C1363 hot box test.  
AIM = VIP configured between glass with warm edge spacer

# VIP offers more Freedom to Achieve Lower U-Values and Meet Window to Wall Ratio Targets

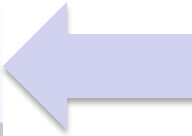




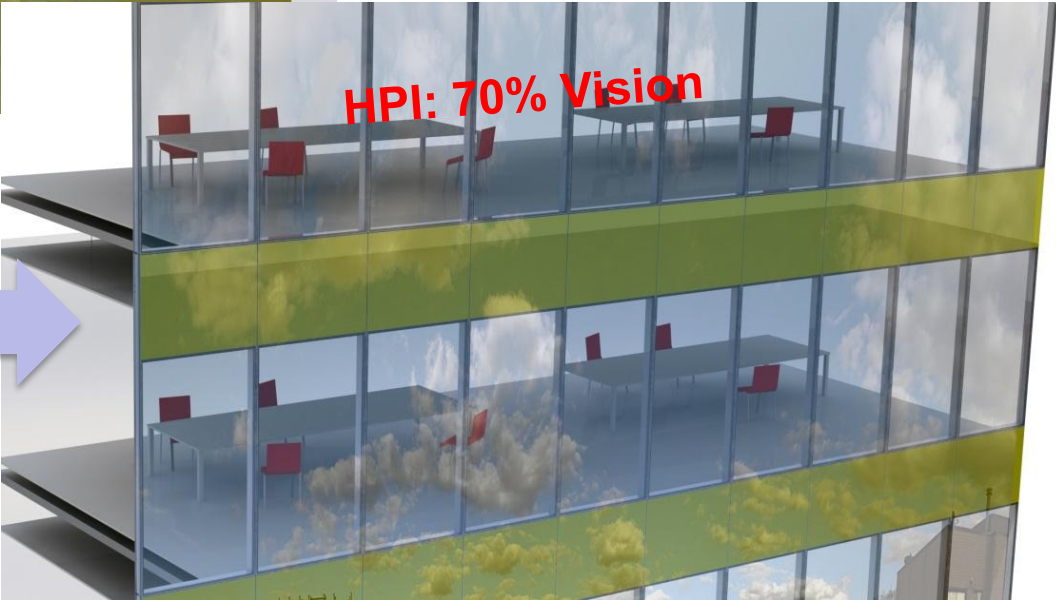

# Use of VIP Spandrel to Optimize Window to Wall Ratio and achieve U Value targets



Improve U Value at Same Vision Area



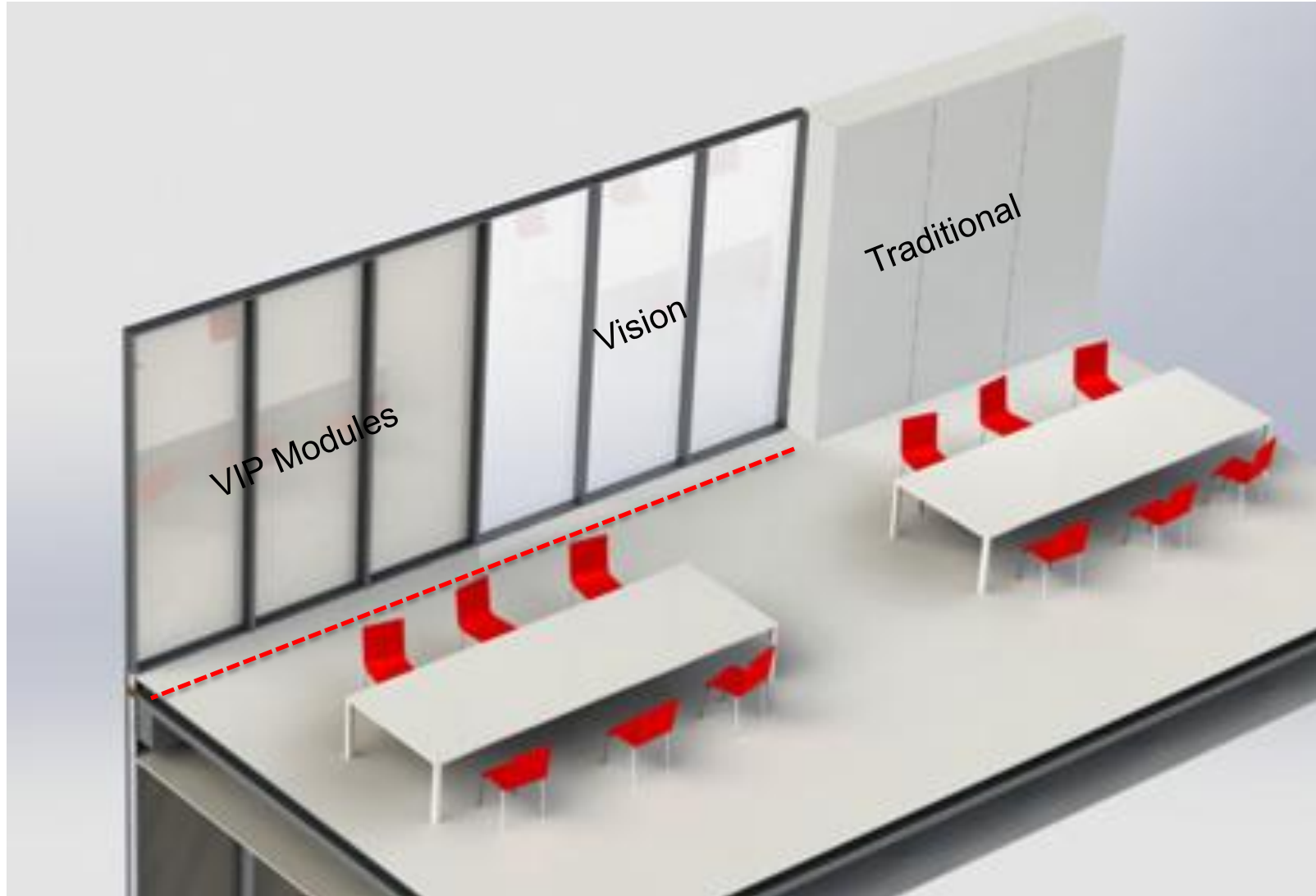
Increase % Vision Area at Same U Value



# Design VIP into the Vision Area to Maximize Thermal Performance



# Designs with VIP Façade Modules to Increase Useable Floor Space





# Thermal Modeling Shows Reduced Condensation Risk

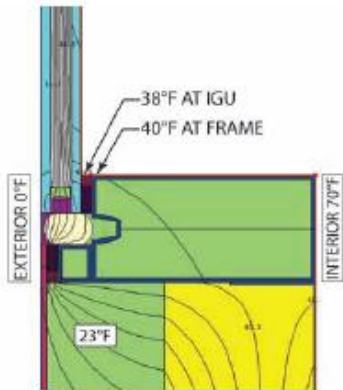


Fig 8: Double IGU and Mineral Wool

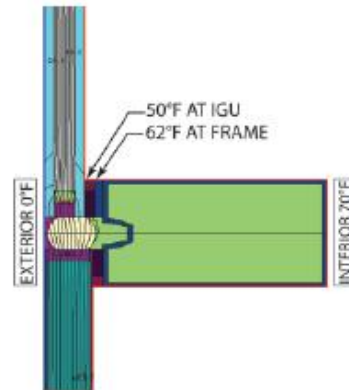


Fig 10: Double IGU and VIP

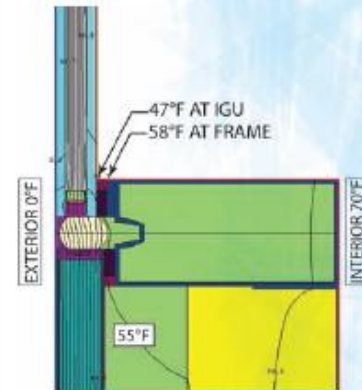


Fig 12: Double IGU and VIP + Mineral Wool

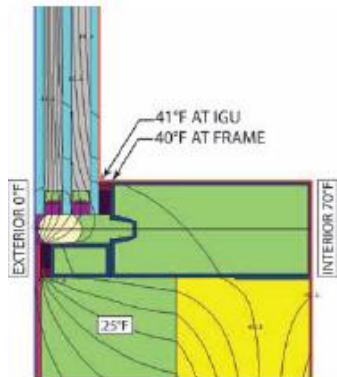


Fig 9: Triple IGU and Mineral Wool

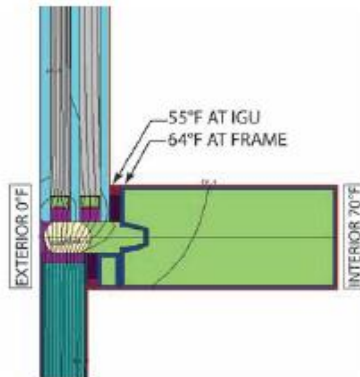


Fig 11: Triple IGU and VIP

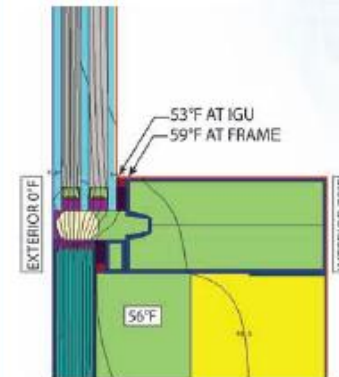


Fig 13: Triple IGU and VIP + Mineral Wool

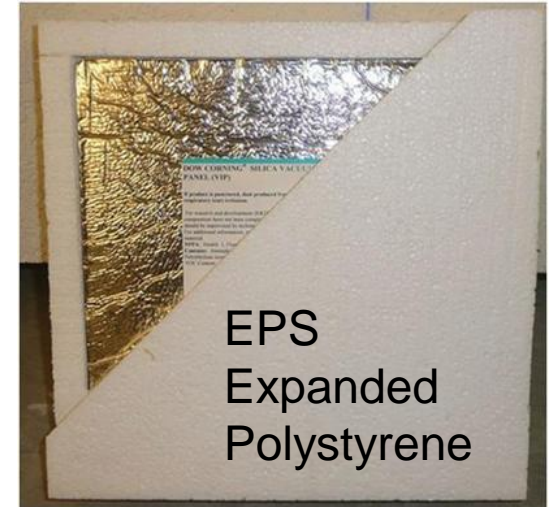
	Fig. 8	Fig. 9	Fig. 10	Fig. 11	Fig. 12	Fig. 13
Glass	Double-Pane IGU	Triple-Pane IGU	Double-Pane IGU	Triple-Pane IGU	Double-Pane IGU	Triple-Pane IGU
Spandrel	MW	MW	VIP	VIP	VIP + MW	VIP +MW
Cold Point Glass	38°F	41°F	50°F	55°F	47°F	53°F
Cold Point Frame	40°F	40°F	62°F	64°F	58°F	59°F
Maximum RH for No Condensation	31%	34%	49%	59%	43%	55%



# Selected applications

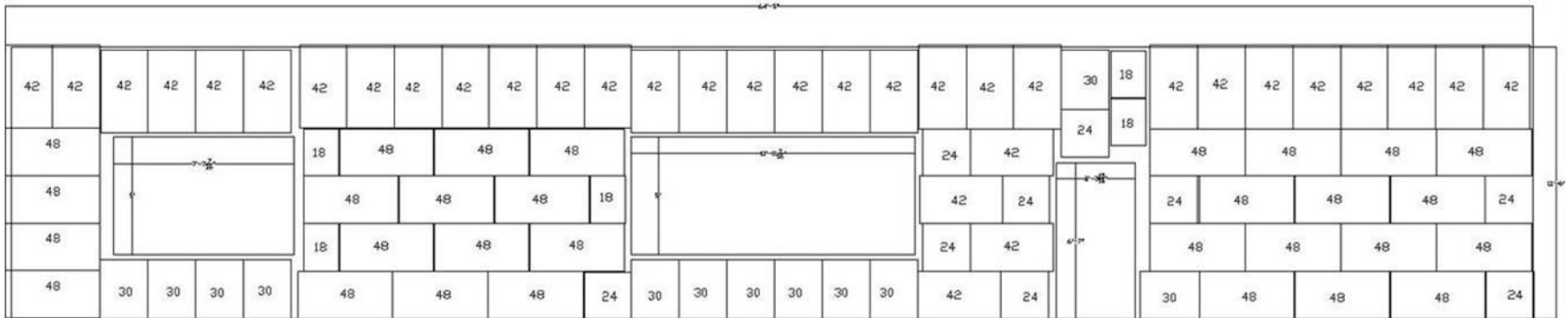
Vacuum Insulation Panels  
Architectural Insulation Modules

# Encapsulated VIP - Field Trial (DOE Project) Maine



- Layout used to guide placement of panels on jobsite

WEST ELEVATION



# Facade Retrofit Without Full Replacement

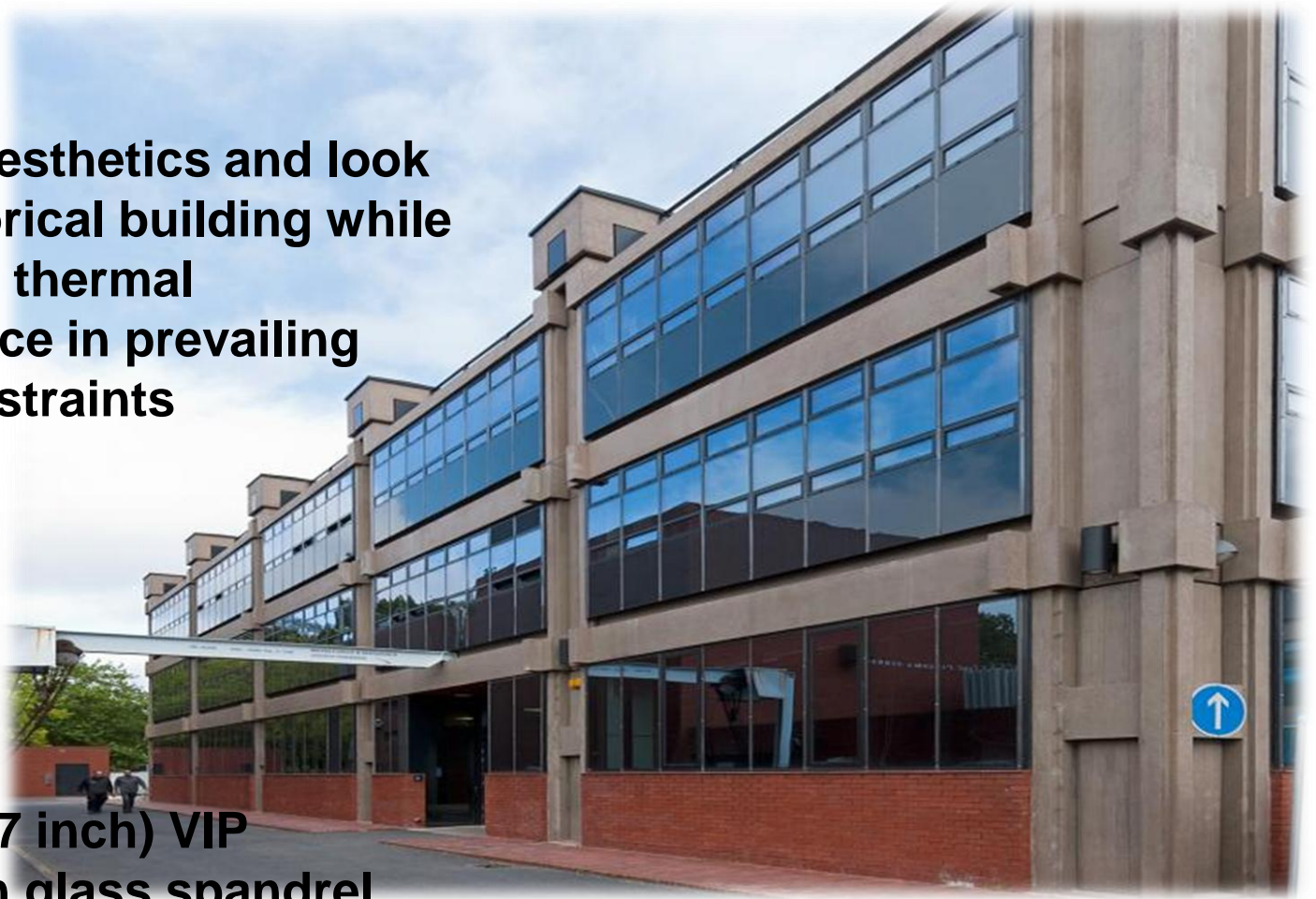
## United Kingdom

### Challenge:

**Maintain aesthetics and look of an historical building while increasing thermal performance in prevailing space constraints**

### Solution:

**17mm (0.67 inch) VIP installed in glass spandrel**





# Spandrel Glass in Sliding Glass Doors

## London, UK





# Spandrel Glass in Curtain Wall Alaska



# Spandrel Glass in Curtain Wall Michigan





# Ease of Installation into Conventional Glazing Systems



# VIP Panels Used in Vision Area Create a Slim Vision Wall with High Thermal Performance



# VIP Encapsulated in Rainscreen Design Belgium





# Improving the Building Envelope

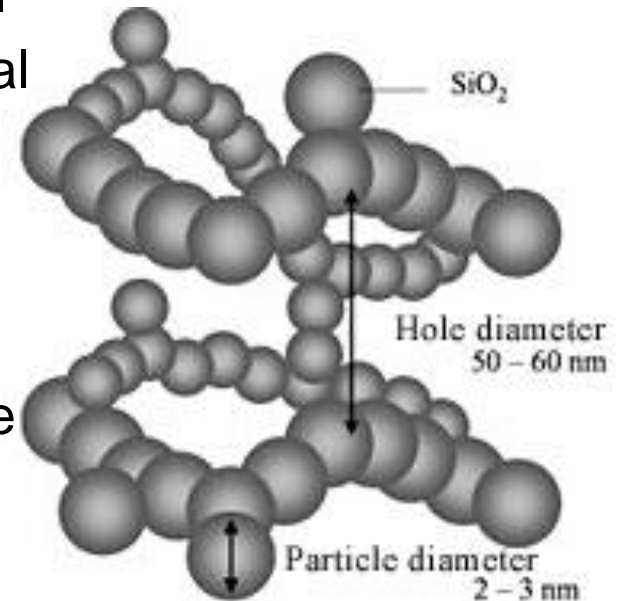
## Addressing Thermal Bridging

### Aerogel Building Insulation Blanket



# Aerogel Technology

- Invented in the 1930's
- Synthetically produced amorphous silica gel
- Nanoporous structures that minimize thermal transport - low thermal conductivity
- An aerogel is composed of 95-99% air, making it one of the lightest existing materials.
- Aerogel started its applications in aerospace and expanded in many fields
- Manufactured and sold in a blanket form



# Thin Profile, Flexible, Insulating Blanket

## A Simple Solution for Thermal Bridging

- Significantly increase thermal resistance in space limited situations
- Enable new design possibilities
- Easy to install in difficult profiles such as curves and corners
- Fast installation with simple tools
- Environmentally safe
- Fire resistant
- Hydrophobic
- Does not settle over time
- ASTM C1728 Standard Specification for Flexible Aerogel Insulation



# Thermal Bridging

*“...the heat flow through a poor-performing detail, like an exposed concrete slab edge, could account for over 40% of the heat flow through the building envelope. In comparison, a thermally efficient detail, such as insulated slab edge, could contribute less than 10%...”*

*Journal of Building Enclosure Design, issue Winter 2013, Article: “**Thermal Bridging: Ignorance is Bliss**” By, Mark Lawton & Neil Norris of Morrison Hershfield, Ltd.*



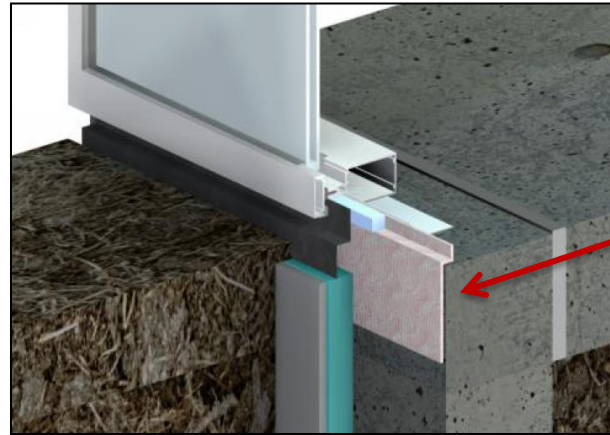
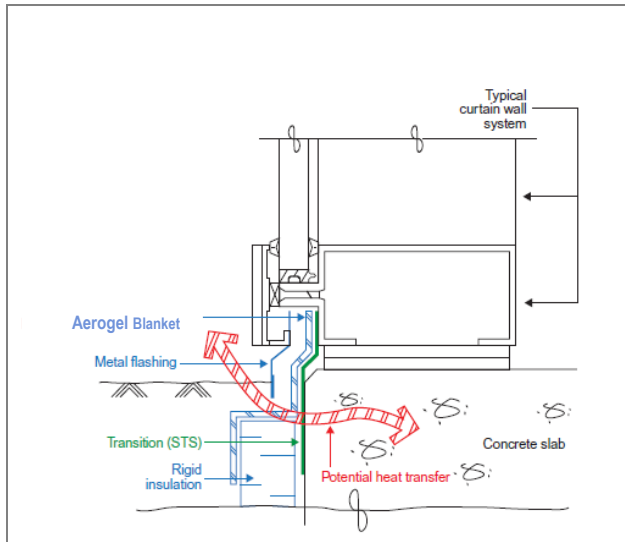
# An Evaluation of Thermal Performance

## Looking at Three Details

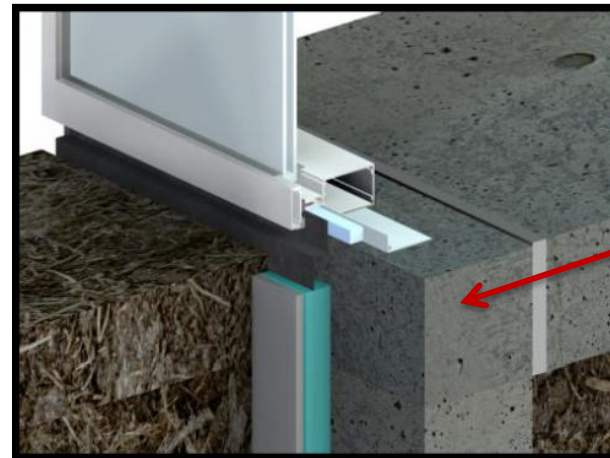
1. Curtain-wall at-grade detail with the Building Insulation Blanket applied to the neck of the curtain-wall to the below grade rigid insulation
2. Curtain-wall jamb at the exterior and interior insulated steel stud assembly with the Building Insulation Blanket applied around the adjacent steel stud and at the wall to curtain-wall transition
3. Rehabilitated window-wall system with the Building Insulation Blanket at the slab edge and around glazing vertical and horizontal mullions.



# 1. Curtain Wall to At-Grade Slab Transition



Aerogel Building Insulation Blanket was placed to cover the neck of the curtain-wall to the below-grade insulation

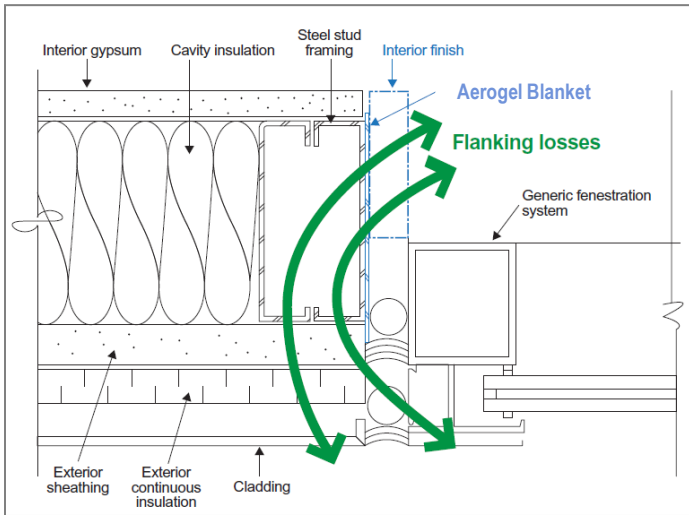


Without Building Insulation Blanket

Perimeter heat loss for curtain-wall at-grade by varying U-values

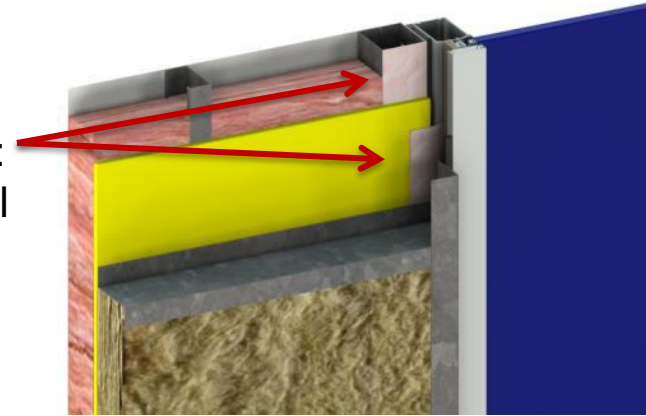
Depth of Insulation	Below Grade Insulation (hr-ft <sup>2</sup> ·°F/BTU)	Slab Perimeter heat Loss (BTU/hr-ft·°F)		% Reduction in Heat Loss
		Without Building Insulation Blanket	10mm Building Insulation Blanket	
24"	R-10	0.495	0.370	<b>25%</b>

# 2. Curtain Wall to Exterior/Interior Insulated Steel Stud Wall Transition

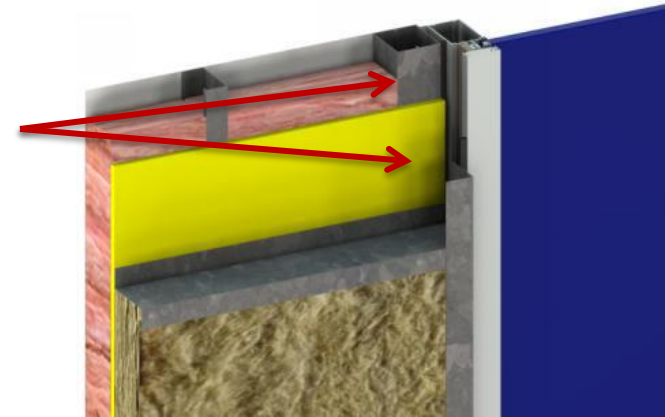


Building Insulation Blanket was added in two locations:

1. Around the interior steel studs adjacent to the curtain mullion
2. Bridging between the curtain-wall neck to the exterior sheathing.



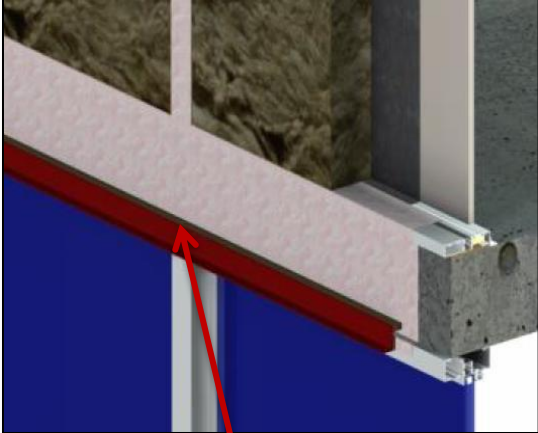
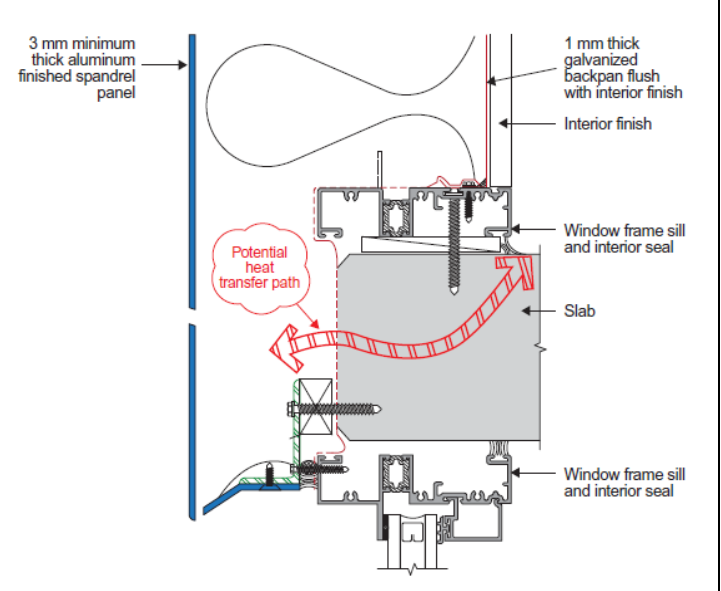
Without Aerogel Insulation Blanket



## Linear Transmittance calculations for Steel Stud Wall transition

Transmittance Description	Linear Transmittance (BTU/hr-ft. <sup>2</sup> -°F)		% Reduction
	Without Building Insulation Blanket	10mm Building Insulation Blanket	
Curtain-wall jamb to an interior and exterior insulated steel stud assembly	0.069	0.019	<b>73%</b>

# 3. Window-Wall at Floor Slab



Aerogel Building Insulation Blanket was modeled over the slab face and both the horizontal and vertical mullions

Without Aerogel Building Insulation Blanket

## Linear Transmittance calculations for a Window-wall Spandrel Section Slab face

Transmittance Description	Linear Transmittance (BTU/hr-ft.°F)		% Reduction
	Without Building Insulation Blanket	10mm Building Insulation Blanket	
Window-wall spandrel section	0.556	0.264	<b>53%</b>

# Thermal Models

Show a 25% to 75% reduction of Heat Loss by Reducing Thermal Bridging

Detail	Transmittance Description	Linear Transmittance (BTU/hr·ft·°F)		% Reduction
		Without Building Insulation Blanket	10mm Building Insulation Blanket	
1	Curtain-wall at grade	0.495	0.370	<b>25%</b>
2	Curtain-wall jamb to an interior and exterior insulated steel stud assembly	0.069	0.019	<b>73%</b>
3	Window-wall at floor slab	0.556	0.264	<b>53%</b>

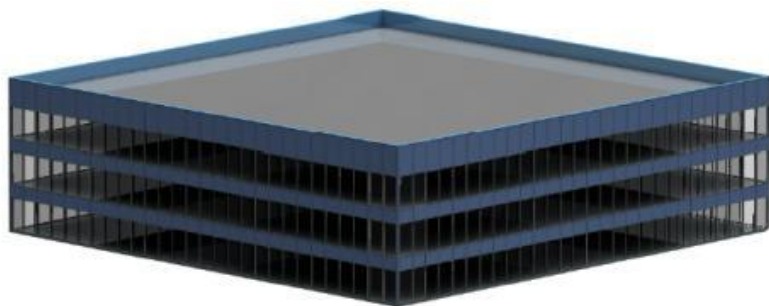


# Whole Building Energy Models

Show 3-7% Energy Savings by Reducing Thermal Bridging

**Table 14: Annual Heating Energy Savings for Chicago Climate**

Building Scenario	Assembly Performance	Annual Heating Energy Use MMBtu (GJ)		Savings due to Aerogel Details	
		With Aerogel	Without Aerogel	Absolute MMBtu (GJ)	Percent (%)
<b>Scenario 1:</b> Façade with Glazing System covering 100% the Façade Area	Conventional Assemblies	5,905 (6,230)	6,123 (6,460)	218 (230)	3.56%
	Higher Performance Assemblies	4,275 (4,511)	4,421 (4,665)	147 (155)	3.31%
<b>Scenario 2:</b> Façade with curtain-wall glazing and a Steel Stud Wall Assembly	Conventional Assemblies	4,279 (4,515)	4,545 (4,796)	266 (281)	5.85%
	Higher Performance Assemblies	3,114 (3,285)	3,340 (3,524)	227 (239)	6.78%



**Scenario 1**



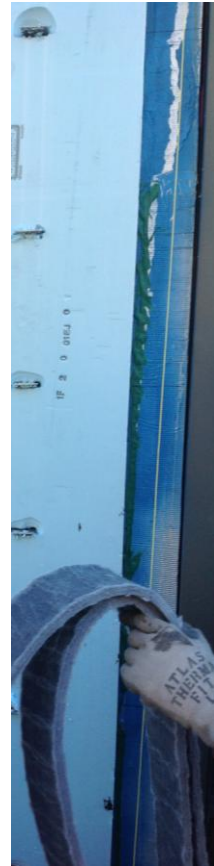
**Scenario 2**

# Selected applications

Building Insulation Blanket

# Space Constrained Locations

Easy to use, environmentally safe, thin material that offers freedom of design and improved energy efficiency



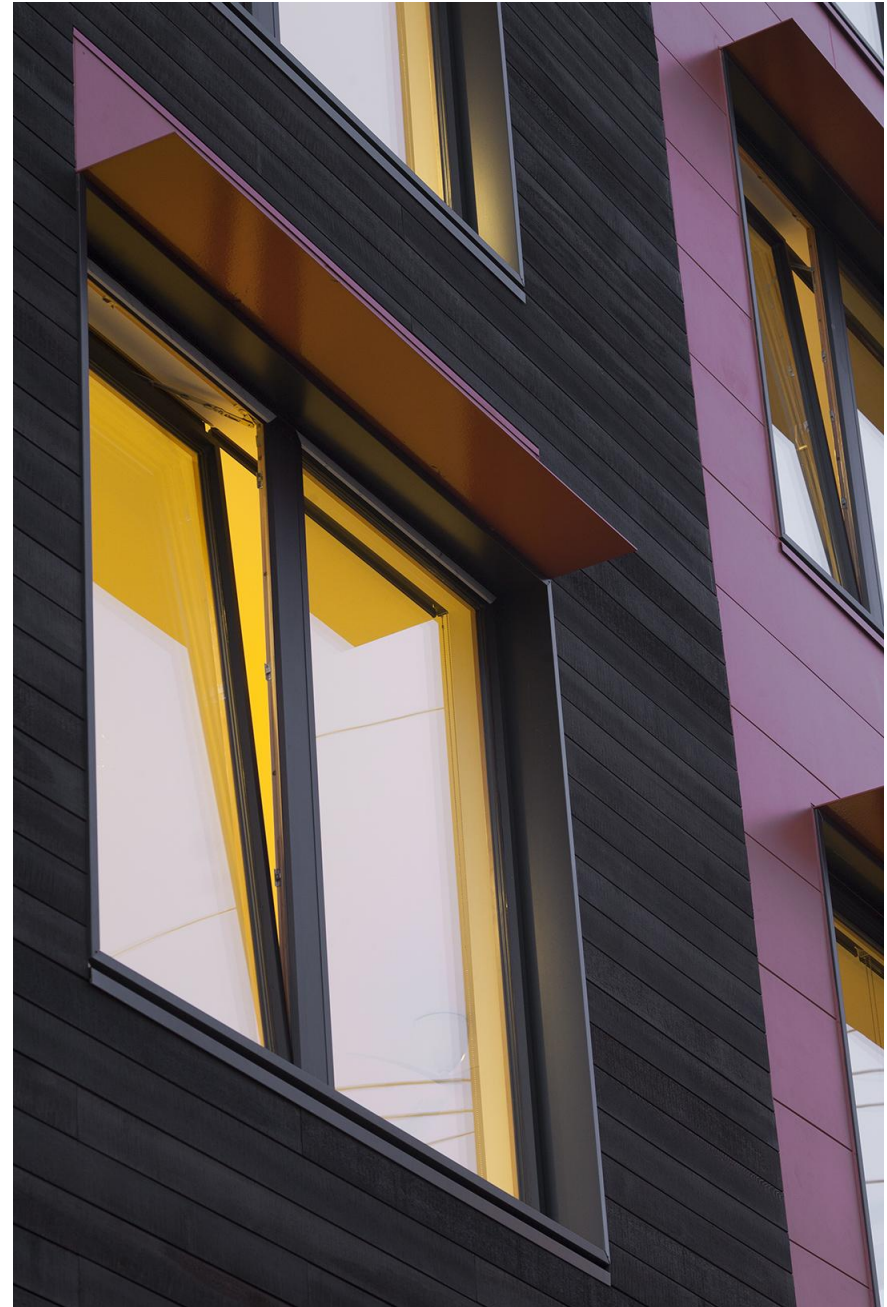


# Thermal Separator Oregon

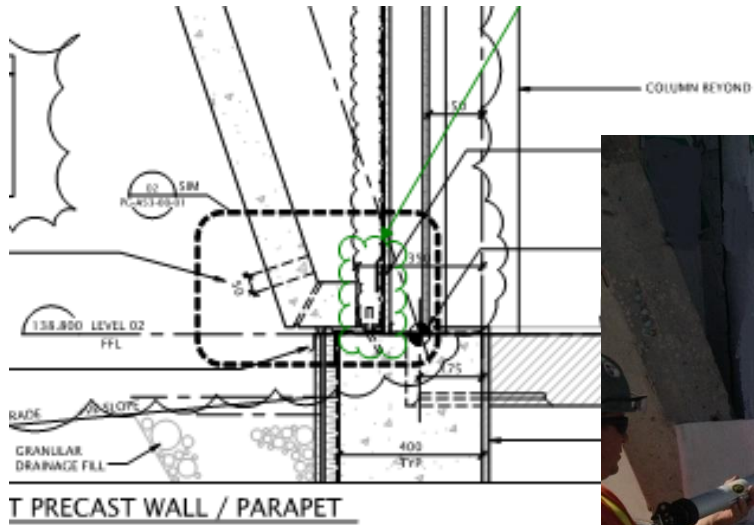




# Completed Project



# Space Constrained Transitions Ontario



**Questions ?**



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# New Innovations from *Dow Corning*



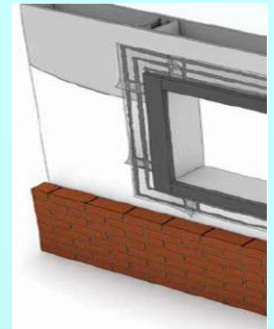
**Dow Corning® Architectural Insulation Module**



**Dow Corning® HPI 1000 Building Insulation Blanket**



**Dow Corning® 121 Structural Glazing Sealant**



**Dow Corning® DefendAir 200**



**Dow Corning® STS**



**Dow Corning® 758 Weather Barrier Sealant**

**DOW CORNING**

*We help you invent the future.™*





## **Thank You**

*Paul Wisniewski*

*New Business Market Leader*

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# Specifications Information:

- [www.dowcorning.com/HPInsulation](http://www.dowcorning.com/HPInsulation)
- [www.buildabetterbarrier.com](http://www.buildabetterbarrier.com)
- [www.dowcorning.com/construction](http://www.dowcorning.com/construction)
- [www.dowcorning.com/758](http://www.dowcorning.com/758)
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# Continuing Education Courses



## **Introduction to High-Performance Insulation (HPI)**

1 AIA/CES Learning Unit, HSW Credit; AIA Course Number: 0DC008

1 GBCI CE Credit; GBCI Course Number: 0090010891

The course provides an overview of high-performance insulation technology, including vacuum insulation panels, aerogel blanket insulation, thermal bridging, thermal and design benefits, and design applications.

## **Air Barrier Systems: Silicone Solutions to Reduce Building Air Infiltration**

1 AIA/CES Learning Unit, HSW Credit; AIA Course Number: 0DC009

1 GBCI CE Credit; GBCI Course Number: 0090011086

The course defines types of air barriers and describes the different solutions currently on the market for sealing penetrations and transitions to create a complete air barrier system. It provides an overview of the basic requirements air barriers must meet and identifies key areas within a wall system where detailing is important to system success.

## **Thermal and Energy Modeling of Two Fenestration Systems in Hot and Cold Climates**

1 AIA/CES Learning Unit, HSW Credit, SD Credit; AIA Course Number: 0DC007/DE-0DC007

The course studies the energy efficiency of commercial curtainwall systems in hot and cold climates and compares a range of curtainwall systems, including various glass and IG spacer components. It reviews whole-building energy consumption, including carbon dioxide emissions, and compares frame temperatures, U-values and SHGC under various conditions.

## **Proven Performance of Structural Silicone Glazing (SSG)**

1 AIA/CES Learning Unit, HSW Credit; AIA Course Number: 0DC006

The course reviews silicone sealant chemistry. Through modeling, it explains the thermal benefits of structural silicone glazing applications. It explains silicone reliability; the standards and test methods involved in validating the durability of structural silicones; test methods related to meeting specifications and codes; SSG joint design, including structural bite and glueline thickness calculations; reglazing of in-service structures; and requirements for quality control.

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# Continuing Education Courses

## **Silicone Sealants and Coatings for Building Construction and Restoration**

1 AIA/CES Learning Unit, HSW Credit; AIA Course Number: 0DC002/DE-0DC002

1 GBCI CE Credit; GBCI Course Number: 90011164

The course explains the differences between silicone and organic sealant chemistries, the functions of nonstructural and structural glazing sealants, how to select appropriate sealing systems for new construction and renovation applications, and the appropriate designs for structural versus weathersealing sealant joints.

## **Construction Sealant Aesthetics**

1 AIA/CES Learning Unit, HSW Credit; AIA Course Number: 0DC005

The course identifies key sealant qualities and factors impacting sealant aesthetics, how sealant type and formulation specifics can impact sealant aesthetics, and the differences between silicone and modified silicone polymer sealants.

## **Determining the Cause of Joint Failure**

1 AIA/CES Learning Unit, HSW Credit; AIA Course Number: 00DC004

The course identifies procedures used to evaluate sealant performance in the joint, types of sealant failure and the causes of a failed joint, as well as the validity of manufacturers' product data and performance claims.

## **Silicone Sealants for Structural and Protective Glazing**

1 AIA/CES Learning Unit, HSW Credit, AIA Course Number: 0DC003

The course defines and explains the purpose of silicone structural and protective glazing; how protective glazing systems work; appropriate



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